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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
Ned M. Smith et al.)
Application No.: 09/784,879)
Docket No.: 42390P10821)
Filed: 2/15/01)
For: Method and Apparatus for Controlling)
A Lifecycle of an Electronic Contract)
_____)

Examiner: Bradley B. Bayat
Art Unit: 3621

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office action dated December 9, 2003, please amend
the above-identified application as follows:

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FEB 20 2004
GROUP 3600